Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   ~~Method~~ A method for determining the thickness of a layer of lacquer which is applied by electrophoretic immersion coating to an article [[(28)]], wherein the article [[(28)]] for immersion coating is immersed in a lacquer immersion bath [[(12)]] containing lacquer [[(4)]] and <u>forms an electrode which generates, together with at least one counter electrode,</u> an electrical field ~~as an electrode with at least one counter electrode (16,18), characterised in that~~<u>comprising the following steps:</u>
a)   <u>determining</u> the electrical charge flowing through the article [[(28)]] during immersion coating [[and]]
b)   <u>determining</u> the surface of the article [[(28)]] exposed to the lacquer<u>,</u> [[(14)]]
c)   <u>determining</u> ~~are ascertained and therefrom~~ the thickness of the layer of lacquer <u>based on the electrical charge</u> [[is]] determined <u>in step a) and the surface determined in step b)</u>.

2. (Currently Amended)   ~~Method according to~~ <u>The method of</u> claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the electric current flowing through the article [[(28)]] during immersion coating is measured ~~to determine the~~ <u>for determining the electric</u> charge <u>in step a)</u>.

3. (Currently Amended)   ~~Method according to~~ <u>The method of</u> claim 1 ~~or 2, characterised in that~~<u>, wherein</u> the surface of the article [[(28)]] is determined <u>in step b) using</u> ~~with the aid of~~ the maximum starting current ~~(J_{max})~~ which flows through the article [[(28)]] at the start of immersion coating.

4. (Currently Amended)   ~~Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~<u>The method of claim 1 wherein</u> the thickness of the layer of lacquer is determined <u>in step c)</u> by taking into account the temperature of the lacquer [[(14)]].

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the layer of lacquer is determined in step c) by taking into account the pH of the lacquer [[(14)]].

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the layer of lacquer is determined in step c) by taking into account the electrical conductivity of the lacquer [[(14)]].

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the layer of lacquer is determined in step c) by taking into account the solids content of the lacquer [[(14)]].

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the layer of lacquer is determined in step c) by taking into account the density of the lacquer [[(14)]].

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the layer of lacquer is determined in step c) by taking into account the spacing between the article [[(28)]] and the at least one counter electrode (16, 18).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the voltage applied between the electrode [[(28)]] and the at least one counter electrode (16, 18) is ~~regulated~~ controlled in such a way that the starting current at the start of immersion coating at least approximately matches a predetermined value.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to~~ The method of claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the predetermined value depends on parameters of the lacquer.

12. (Currently Amended)   ~~Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the immersion coating is finished as soon as the determined layer thickness has reached a predeterminable ~~desired~~ target value.

     – 13. (Currently Amended)   ~~System~~ A system for determining the thickness of a layer of lacquer which is applied by electrophoretic immersion coating to an article [[(28)]], comprising:

– an immersion bath [[(12)]] for receiving a lacquer [[(14)]] in which the article [[(28)]] can be immersed,

– a voltage source [[(22)]], of which one pole [[(24)]] can be connected to the article [[(28)]] and of which the other pole [[(20)]] is connected to at least one counter electrode (16, 18) reaching into the immersion bath,

~~characterised in that~~

– a charge measurement apparatus ~~the system comprises means (22)~~ for determining the electrical charge flowing through the article [[(28)]] during immersion coating [[and]],

– a computer [[(34)]] which determines ~~tunes~~ the thickness of the layer of lacquer from the charge measured by the charge measurement apparatus and the surface of the article [[(28)]] exposed to the lacquer [[(14)]].

14. (Currently Amended)   ~~System according to~~ The system of claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the charge measurement apparatus ~~means for determining the charge~~ comprises an ammeter [[(32)]].

15. (Currently Amended)   ~~System according to~~ The system of claim 13 ~~or 14, characterised in that~~, wherein the maximum starting current ~~(J_{max})~~ which flows through the article [[(28)]] at the start of immersion coating, can be stored in the computer [[(34)]].

16. (Currently Amended)   ~~System according to~~ The system of claim 15, ~~characterised in that~~

wherein the computer [[(34)]] determines the surface of the article [[(28)]] exposed to the lacquer [[(14)]] from the maximum starting current ~~(J_{max})~~.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~System according to any one of claims 13 to 16, characterised by~~ The system of claim 13, comprising a temperature sensor [[(38)]], which is connected to the computer [[(34)]], for determining the temperature of the lacquer [[(14)]].

18. (Currently Amended) ~~System according to any one of claims 13 to 17, characterised by~~ The system of claim 13, comprising a pH sensor [[(40)]], which is connected to the computer [[(34)]], for measuring the pH factor of the lacquer [[(14)]].

19. (Currently Amended) ~~System according to any one of claims 13 to 18, characterised by~~ The system of claim 13, comprising a conductivity sensor [[(42)]], which is connected to the computer [[(34)]], for measuring the conductivity of the lacquer [[(14)]].

20. (Currently Amended) ~~System according to any one of claims 13 to 19, characterised by~~ The system of claim 13, comprising a sensor, connected to the computer [[(34)]], for determining the solids content of the lacquer [[(14)]].

21. (Currently Amended) ~~System according to any one of claims 13 to 20, characterised by~~ The system of claim 13, comprising a density sensor, which is connected to the computer [[(34)]], for measuring the density of the lacquer [[(14)]].

22. (Currently Amended) ~~System according to any one of claims 13 to 21, characterised in that the system comprises a regulating~~ The system of claim 13, comprising a control device which ~~regulates~~ is configured to control the voltage applied between the electrode [[(28)]] and the at least one counter electrode ~~(16, 18)~~ in such a way that the starting current at the start of immersion coating has a predetermined value.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~System according to any one of claims 13 to 22, characterised in that the system comprises~~ The system of claim 13, comprising a controller which is configured to terminate[[s]] the immersion coating as soon as the specific lacquer thickness has reached a predeterminable ~~desired~~ target value.